



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5  
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

January 27, 2003

BY FAX AND REGULAR MAIL

Mr. Charles T. Wehland  
Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue  
77 West Wacker  
Chicago, Illinois 60601-1692

Re: Ellsworth Industrial Park Site  
Downers Grove, Illinois

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



265439

Dear Chuck:

Please excuse my delay in responding to your letter dated December 3, 2002 concerning Molex's involvement at the Ellsworth Industrial Park Site in Downers Grove, Illinois (the "Site").

After reviewing the information provided in your letter, the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("U.S. EPA") continues to believe that Molex is a potentially responsible party at the Site.

Molex used TCA, which is one of the Site-related contaminants found in drinking water wells downgradient from the Site. Molex admits that it has run a plating operation at the Site. Plating operations typically use organic solvents for degreasing prior to plating operations. Molex operated a degreasing unit at its Walnut Street operation, although the record is not entirely clear on what materials Molex used for degreasing.

Moreover, a witness reported to U.S. EPA that plating waste was spilled outside the Molex building. That witness told U.S. EPA that the area of the spill is now covered with an asphalt parking lot between the Walnut Street plant and the Katrine Avenue facility. The witness also told U.S. EPA that soil was removed and disposed of from this spill location.

Molex also had releases of hazardous materials from an underground storage tank at its Walnut Avenue facility. Although the tank and some soil were removed, no soil samples were ever collected for volatile organic compounds.

Because the current monitoring wells at the Walnut facility are shallow in depth, and may only be intersecting the shallow perched groundwater conditions at the Site, the current annual

groundwater sampling regime is not an adequate assessment of intermediate and deep groundwater conditions beneath the facility and would not necessarily detect relevant releases. Intermediate wells would be needed to truly assess conditions around and beneath the Walnut Street plant.

These factors indicate that Molex may be responsible for contamination at the Site. Further investigation is warranted, including collection of soil and water samples in and around the former leaking UST and the alleged plating waste spill area. In addition, intermediate wells should be installed to assess any releases from Molex and to determine hydrogeological conditions. This additional information must be developed before U.S. EPA could be persuaded that Molex is not responsible for contributing to the Site or is exempt from liability.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions concerning this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas J. Krueger', written in a cursive style.

Thomas J. Krueger  
Associate Regional Counsel

cc: Mazin Enwiya, U.S. EPA  
Mark Gurnik, Illinois EPA  
Kendra Pohn, Illinois AG